

REMARKS

In the December 14, 2005 Office Action, claims 1-3 and 19-21 stand rejected in view of prior art, while claims 4-18 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Claim 2 also was rejected as being indefinite. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the December 14, 2005 Office Action, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 19-21 as indicated above and canceled claim 2. Moreover, claims 4 and 15 have been amended to place these claims in independent form. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. Thus, claims 1 and 3-21 are pending, with claims 1, 4, 15 and 19-21 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

In the numbered paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Office Action, claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants have canceled claim 2 as indicated above. Thus, Applicants believe the rejection to claim 2 is moot.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

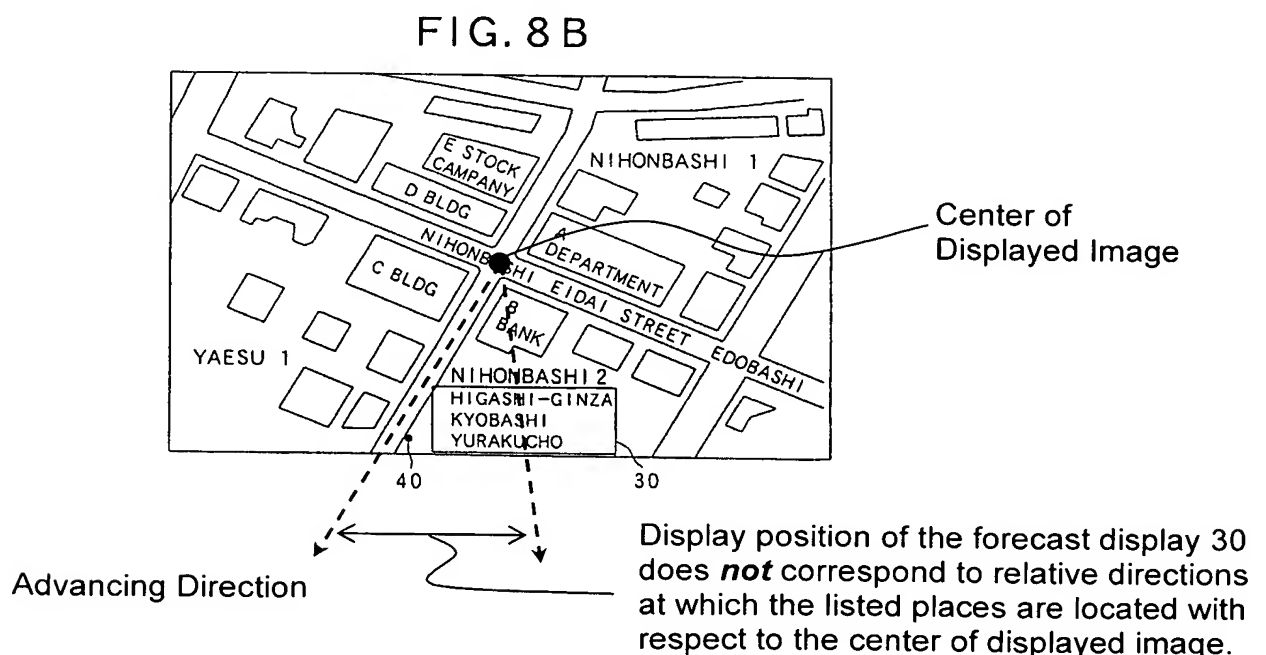
In the numbered paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,462,676 to Koizumi (hereinafter "Koizumi patent"). Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection as applied to original claim 2. Thus, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 19-21 to substantially include limitations recited in original claim 2, except that the claim 2 limitations have been changed to overcome the indefiniteness rejection to claim 2. Claim 2

has been canceled as indicated above. Applicants believe independent claims 1 and 19-21 now clearly define the present invention over the prior art of record.

In particular, independent claims 1 and 19-21 now recite displaying the distant map name on the display unit in a peripheral part of the display unit that *corresponds to a relative direction of the distant location* relative to a center point of the current displayed map image. With this arrangement, a user of the map image display device or method of the present invention as claimed can easily recognize the relative direction of the distant location relative to the center point of the current displayed map image by looking at a display position of the distant map name on the display unit. Clearly, this structure is *not* disclosed or suggested by the Koizumi patent or any other prior art of record.

The Koizumi patent discloses a map displaying apparatus that is configured to superimpose a forecast display on a current displayed map with the forecast display including names of facilities and places that are located in a currently advancing direction of a user. However, the Koizumi patent is *silent* about displaying the forecast display *at a position* that *corresponds* to relative directions of the distant locations (i.e., facilities and places) relative to a center point of the current displayed map image. More specifically, the Koizumi patent merely discloses displaying the names of facilities and places that are located in the currently advancing direction in a *single list* as shown in Figures 8B and 9A as the forecast display. In fact, as seen in Figure 8B, the Koizumi patent shows a map of the Tokyo area in which the places "Higashi-Ginza", "Kyobashi" and "Yurakucho" are displayed in the forecast display 30. However, these actual places do not exist in the downward direction of the Nihonbashi intersection with respect to the displayed map (please see annotated Figure 8B below). Thus, the relative directions of these places *do not* match with the display position of the forecast display. Moreover, according to the Koizumi patent, this list of the names of facilities and

places is superimposed on the displayed image at a position *near the present position mark* of the user, or *at any position* other than the position near the present position mark (please see column 9, lines 48-65 of the Koizumi patent). Since the names of facilities and places are displayed as the single list at a position near the present position mark of the user or at any position in the Koizumi patent, the relative locations of the places listed in the forecast display with respect to the current displayed map is *irrelevant* in determining the display position of the forecast display. In other words, the forecast display of the Koizumi patent is configured to display the list of all the names of facilities and places that are located in the current advancing direction *regardless* of the relative locations of the places with respect to the current displayed map. Accordingly, in the Koizumi patent, a position at which the forecast display is superimposed on the current displayed image is *independent* of the relative directions of the facilities and the places relative to a center point of the current displayed map image. In fact, Figure 8B of the Koizumi patent (reproduced below) shows the forecast display being superimposed at a position that does *not* correspond to the relative directions of the places that are listed in the forecast display.



Therefore, with the map displaying apparatus of the Koizumi patent, the user *cannot* possibly recognize the relative directions of the places listed in the forecast display with respect to the current displayed map by merely looking at the forecast display superimposed on the current displayed map. Accordingly, the Koizumi patent *fails* to disclose or suggest displaying the distant map name on the display unit in a peripheral part of the display unit that *corresponds to a relative direction of the distant location* relative to a center point of the current displayed map image as now recited in independent claims 1 and 19-21.

Although Figure 10B of the Koizumi patent is cited in the Office Action to show the limitations recited in original claim 2, Applicants believe the purpose of Figure 10B is to illustrate an example of plurality of preset areas in which the forecast display is performed in an alternative embodiment, *not* to illustrate an actual display shown in the display section. Thus, Applicants believe Figure 10B of the Koizumi patent does *not* disclose or suggest displaying the distant map name on the display unit in a peripheral part of the display unit that *corresponds to a relative direction of the distant location* relative to a center point of the current displayed map image as now recited in independent claims 1 and 19-21.

It is well settled under U.S. patent law that for a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must disclose *each* and *every* element of the claim within the reference. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as now amended, is not anticipated by the prior art of record. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Moreover, Applicants believe that dependent claim 3 is also allowable over the prior art of record in that this claim depend from independent claim 1, and therefore is allowable for the reasons stated above. Also, dependent claim 3 is further allowable because this claim includes additional limitations. Thus, Applicants believe that since the prior art of record

does not anticipate the independent claim 1, neither does the prior art anticipate dependent claim 3.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the numbered paragraph 5 of the Office Action, claims 4-18 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. In response, Applicants have amended claims 4 and 15 to place them in independent form. Thus, independent claims 4 and 15 and dependent claims 5-14 and 16-18 are believed to be allowable.

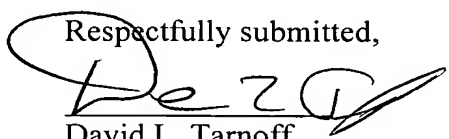
Prior Art Citation

In the Office Action, additional prior art references were made of record. Applicants believe that these references do not render the claimed invention obvious.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1 and 3-21 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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